

count of ice cakes in which they were enclosed.

The first four men who died in the fire were porters. Twenty minutes after the fire started they were seen at a window in the fifth story. They made frantic gestures, and then three of them jumped to the street. Each was crushed to death as he struck Broadway. The fourth wavered for a moment, then fell back into the flames and perished.

Fire Chief William K. Walsh is missing. He was last seen on the sixth story of the building furiously fighting the flames.

Captain of the Vaults John Campeon is dead. He was trapped in the very vaults that were under his care and protection.

The body of Conrad Siebert, a watchman, was found, burned and frightfully crushed, on the first floor.

The fire started at 5:20 o'clock this morning. It spread with such frightful rapidity through the amazing labyrinths of the great building that by 8 o'clock the entire building was doomed beyond all hope.

At 9:30 o'clock only the bare walls of the Equitable building stood, and police reserves were driving back the firemen and the thousands of spectators. For the tons of water that had seeped through cracks in the building were freezing, shaking and throwing down walls as though by high explosives.

EQUITABLE PALACE OF FINANCE UNEQUALED IN MAGNIFICENCE IN WHOLE WORLD

The Equitable building was eight stories high on the Broadway side and twelve on the Nassau street side. It covered an entire block and cost 14,000,000.

It grew from the smaller structure first planned by Henry Baldwin Hyde when he organized the Equitable Life Assurance Society, into the great palace of finance first occupied in 1870. It sheltered yesterday business representing \$2,000,000,000.

There was not another building like the Equitable Society's in the world. There was a lawyer's club on one floor, an insurance men's on another, a free library and a dining room. The famous Lawyers' Club grew into a membership of 2,000 shortly after the

building was opened.

For many years the building was one of the show places of New York. It was the scene of many splendid dinners and other social events.

The building was deliberately planned by Hyde for the purpose of advertising his insurance concern. It was widely copied after its success was assured.

The entrance from Broadway was through a wonderful arched portal set with ornamental grill of solid bronze. Colored marbles massed in columns and arches gave a magnificent effect of richness. The corridor that continued through the block to Nassau street was lined with other costly marbles and hundreds of incan-